

**Meeting Minutes
Capital Region Solid Waste Management Partnership
SWMP Steering Committee**

Date: 12/08/09

Time: 4:00PM

Loc: 200 Henry Johnson Blvd.

CHA Project No.: 19283

Steering Committee:

Frank Zeoli—City of Albany	Bob Griffin—Allied Waste
Bill Bruce—SWMP Committee Chair	David Phaff—CANA
Michael Kernan—CANA	Dick Forgea—NYSDEC
Gregg Sagendorph—Town of Bethlehem	Resa Dimino—NYDEC
Mike O’Brien—Albany City Council	Jim Sano—Albany Common Council

Consultants and Others in Attendance:

Michael Franchini—Albany County	Mary Ellen Mallia—University of Albany
Ken Gallagher—CHA	Meghan Ruby—City of Albany
Fred Stein—Citizen	Peter Jellett—Citizen
Aimee Alland—LWV	Jeff Edwards—Schenectady County
Jim Travers—SCRAP	Judita M. —Citizen
B. Nearing—Citizen	Tim Truscott—Citizen
Sharon Fisher—Town of Bethlehem	Peggy Slocum—Citizen
Thayer Heath--Citizen	Howard Traite—Citizen
Sheree Cammer--Citizen	Tom Ellis—Citizen
Elise VanAllen—Albany Community Television	Lynne Jackson--Citizen

Introductions were made by each person in attendance.

Last month’s meeting minutes were accepted, with the amendment to include the comment at the last meeting by Mike Kiernan regarding his concern that an Authority might not be the best implementing agency structure and that a contractual consortium would be a better mechanism. At the previous meeting, Jeff Edwards had mentioned the GLOW planning unit as an example of a successful consortium that did not have an authority. Ken Gallagher reported that he had reviewed information about GLOW and noted that one of the original constituent counties had dropped out, and that this Planning Unit did not operate the types of facilities being contemplated under the new SWMP. As a result, he did not believe that this was an example of a successful consortium in the context of the new SWMP.

More discussion ensued about the concept of a consortium and whether a consortium could be authorized to exercise waste flow control. Chairman Bill Bruce noted that a legal memorandum would be requested from Nixon Peabody to address this issue.

Bill Bruce then mentioned that the main topic of today's meeting was a presentation of the key elements of the SWMP. An electronic copy of the Preliminary Draft SWMP will be distributed to the Committee on or around December 15th. Written comments are being solicited from the Committee members until January 29, 2010. After Committee member comments are incorporated, a final Draft SWMP will be prepared and a Steering Committee Meeting will be scheduled to present the final Draft SWMP. No date has been set for this meeting, but it is expected to occur in mid to late February 2010.

Ken Gallagher gave a presentation about the recommended elements of the SWMP (See Attachment). During the presentation, Jim Sano noted that the Albany Common Council has recently approved the expansion of designated recyclable materials to include Plastic #3 through #7.

During Committee member comments after the presentation, Resa Dimino suggested that we might want to consider including some new metrics for waste reduction and recycling goal achievement to be consistent with the new statewide draft SWMP that will be issued in the near future. These metrics include per capita waste disposal (the State SWMP will call for a reduction of this measure annually) and per capita recovery of certain recyclables like mixed GMP and mixed paper. Ken Gallagher noted that the inclusion of these additional metrics would likely be straightforward to incorporate into the Draft SWMP.

Mike O'Brien asked about the status of any discussions with neighboring planning units and Bill Bruce explained that there had been a meeting in late September attended by the Mayor, and representatives of Albany County, Rensselaer County, Saratoga County, and the NYSDEC. Mike asked that he be kept informed regarding future meetings. It was also noted that Albany County had still not heard about the status of their grant application to the Department of State for a feasibility study to further evaluate a regional solid waste solution. There was concern expressed that there State funding for this project may not be forthcoming.

Under public comments, Fred Stein noted that citizens in Rensselaer County would be skeptical of any regional solution that will involve waste to energy. Jim Travers noted his opinion that the establishment of a solid waste management authority could be problematic, especially if put or pay contracts are required. He also thought biosolids should be included as a component of the SWMP. Peter Jellett asked about the NYSDEC policy on waste to energy facilities. Resa Dimino responded that the DEC is no longer promoting WTE facilities as it did in the 1987 statewide SWMP. While the new SWMP will be promoting waste reduction and recycling over disposal (including WTE), the DEC is not discouraging WTE technology, and will evaluate proposals for WTE on a case-by-case basis. Jeff Edwards asked a series of detailed questions about GHG emissions, SSOW facility sizing, and flow control. Ken Gallagher and Bill Bruce responded to these questions. Tim Truscott asked about MOSA and if anyone knew why Otsego County was seeking to leave MOSA. Dick Forgea explained that he believed it was due to economic circumstances and dissatisfaction related to high tipping fees and revenue shortfalls that the constituent counties must account for. It was pointed out that

one reason that this has occurred is that these counties have not enacted waste flow control. Lynne Jackson commented that a permanent HHW drop-off location would not be a benefit to city residents without cars, so more options for these people should be provided. Howard Traite commented on how critical education is to source separation. He also noted that in the recycling of electronics, we should make sure these materials are processed and recovered in the U.S. to ensure that proper environmental safeguards are in place. Sheree Cammer commented that she is the Zero Waste Liaison for the Sierra Club's Hudson Mohawk group and that the Sierra Club endorses Zero Waste. She commented that GHG emissions can be reduced when consumers stop buying unnecessary goods and packaging, and when products are manufactured in such a way that their materials can be easily recovered and reused. She also noted her opinion that investments in landfill bioreactors and technologies such as mass-burn, pyrolysis, plasma, and gasification obstruct efforts to reduce waste. Tom Ellis asked about the next meeting, and Bill Bruce noted that it will be scheduled at a later date after the Committee completes its review of the Preliminary Draft SWMP. He also asked if the SWMP would identify new education and enforcement efforts. Ken Gallagher responded that most of these efforts have already been identified as part of the SWMP Modification, but that the new SWMP will identify some new measures.